

Docket No.: ATODP0100USSerial No. 10/675,019**Remarks**

Claims 1-43 are pending in the application. The claims now have been subjected to an election of species requirement in the Office Action to which this paper is responsive.

Election

The Examiner contends that the application contains claims directed to multiple patentably distinct species, requiring that Applicant elect one single disclosed species under 35 U.S.C. §121 from, e.g., the micro-roughening methods (I), (II), (III), (IV) or (V) for initial examination on the merits, to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Applicants respectfully traverse the election requirement on the ground that it is not unreasonably burdensome for the Examiner to search the species of micro-roughening methods.

Applicants hereby elect the species (I), micro-roughening by applying a mixture comprising: water, acid, an oxidant and a corrosion inhibitor. The claims which are readable on this species include claims 1-18, 24-27 and 28-43. At least claims 1, 28 and 36 are generic.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims presently in the application are allowable, and that any claims withdrawn from consideration due to previous or the present election of species should be reinstated into the case and allowed.

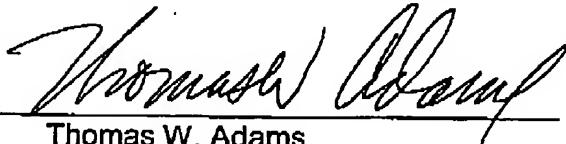
In the event issues arise as a result of the filing of this paper, or remain in the prosecution of this application, Applicants request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney to expedite allowance of the application. Should a Petition for Extension of Time be necessary for the present Reply to the outstanding Office action to be timely filed (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary) petition therefor is hereby made and, if any additional fees are required for the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account #18-0988, Docket No. ATODP0100US.

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Respectfully submitted,

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